(iii) Use of stimulation techniques for increasing production from existing fields.

(iv) Application of Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR)/Improved Oil Recovery (IOR) techniques for increasing recovery factor from existing fields.

(v) Arresting decline from ageing fields.

Production of LPG at RIL's Refinery at Jamnagar

244. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL) is expected to cut LPG production at its Jamnagar refinery from mid-2008 following the grant of Export-Oriented Unit (EOU) status to the refinery;

(b) if so, what is the expected shortage of LPG in the country thereby;

(c) what are the steps being taken to maintain the availability of LPG for domestic use in the country; and

(d) what is the reason for granting EOU status to this RIL's refinery when the country is facing shortage of LPG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) has informed that following the grant of EOU status to their existing refinery at Jamnagar, there is a plan to reduce LPG production to around 1.6 MMTPA from mid-2008. The deficit between demand and indigenous production of LPG is met through regular imports being done by the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs). Further, with the delicensing of the refinery sector since June 1998, capacity addition is being planned in the country, both by the public and private sector companies to meet the demand for petroleum products, including LPG.

(d) Even though the RIL has been granted EOU status, any export of LPG has to be with the approval of the Government of India.

Purchase of Ethanol from Brazil

245. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be please to State:

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Petroleum Ltd., a Public Sector Undertaking of Government has entered MoU for purchase of ethanol from a company in Brazil by name Petroleo Brasilerio;

(b) if so, whether it is not against the basic objective of helping Indian surgarcane farmers; and

(c) whether even at 10 per cent mandatory usage of ethanol, India's requirement is not more than 120 crore litres and India having created production capacity of more than 130 crore litres, how is the MoU decision justified?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir. An MoU has been signed by Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limted (BPCL) with Brazil's National Oil Company, Petroleo Brasilerio S.A.-Petrobras on 30.8.2007. Under the objects of the MoU both the parties with endeavour jointly to undertake studies in matters related to:—

(i) The use and trading of fuel ethanol globally;

(ii) Co-operation in areas of ethanol plant investments in Brazil in order to meet global demand of fuel ethanol;

(iii) Extending co-operation to bio-diesel production and manufacturing process as well as R&D technology, including transfer of technology for ethanol; and

(iv) Conduct joint studies on efficient means of transportation and joint investment in Logistics Infrastructure for ethanol in Brazil.

(b) and (c) The scope of MoU does not cover import of fuel ethanol to India and hence does not jeopardize the interest of Indian sugarcane farmers.

Procurement of oil blocks in foreign countries.

246. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have plans to procure oil blocks in foreign countries to ensure energy secruity for India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the agreements made, if any, with other countries, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) India's strategy for securing Energy Security which has been incorporated in "Hydrocarbon Vision-2025" a document of Government of India, includes investment in equity oil abroad. The significant steps, initiated by the Government and public sector undertakings for enhancing energy security, *inter alia*, include equity oil and gas from abroad.

(b) A Statement is enclosed.